## COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY BAGHDAD, IRAQ

5 June 2003

## MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, COALITION FORCES

SUBJECT: Implementation of Public Notice Regarding Incitements to Violence

Operation Iraqi Freedom was fought to liberate the Iraqi people from the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein. Since the collapse of the regime, Iraqis across the country are expressing their freedom in numerous ways. Freedoms of speech and expression were among the freedoms most repressively suppressed under Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, and it is a central Coalition goal to ensure that the Iraqi people are free to think, speak, and worship as they please.

The enclosed "Notice Regarding Public Incitement to Violence and Disorder" is clearly authorized by the law of occupation, which gives the occupying power significant discretion to control the media, maintain public order, and ensure the security of the occupying power and the people in occupied territories. It is also consistent with relevant provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1483 (2003). The law of occupation recognizes the central role that the media and public pronouncements play in the context of military operations and the effective administration of occupied territory, and accords occupying powers broad authority in this area as a result.

Notwithstanding this wide-ranging authority, the Notice is not intended to preclude legitimate debate and criticism. One of the objectives of the CPA is to promote a free and responsible Iraqi media, and our actions must reflect this, insofar as current circumstances permit. Accordingly, request that the Notice be implemented consistent with the following guidelines:

- Speech that promotes violence or public disturbance undermines the public law
  and order that are required for the responsible exercise of freedom. Public
  comments inciting riots, attacks, or other violence therefore warrant appropriate
  action. This extends to organized campaigns to interfere with Coalition efforts to
  maintain order and security for the Iraqi people.
- For this reason, consistent Resolution 1483 and its responsibilities as an
  occupying power, the CPA has issued a public notice regarding public incitement
  to violence and disorder.
- The intention of the order is to discourage public pronouncements and the distribution of materials that incite violence and thereby threaten the safety and well-being of Iraqi citizens or Coalition personnel. It is especially intended to

Coalition Forces, including the rules authorizing the detention of persons who interfere with mission accomplishment and when required in self-defense of Coalition Forces.

L. Paul Bremer, Administrator Coalition Provisional Authority